



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

SA-09-92

Date: July 1, 1992

TO: All Employees

FROM: 429/Head, Risk Management Branch, SSQRD

SUBJECT: Mishap in Jet Noise Laboratory, Facility 1221A

A Langley Research Center electrical technician and a Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Company Aerospace Engineer were recently injured in an industrial accident at the Jet Noise Laboratory, Facility 1221A. The employees were checking some voltage regulation equipment (SCR Controllers) in preparation for tests in the Jet Noise Facility and needed to locate the termination point of wiring from the control room. Neither employee intended to touch or perform work on the wiring or terminals.

The engineer opened the door of the enclosure which contained one of the SCR controllers, bent over to point to a particular component with his right hand and in the process apparently moved a shielded thermocouple wire with his left hand. The thermocouple wire had an exposed shield located very near an energized terminal block and it probably made contact with the top lug of the energized terminal block causing a flash. Neither employee was seriously injured.

When personal contact with energized components is possible, it is very important to assure that electrical circuits are deenergized. Voltage checks to confirm that the power is "off" is considered standard practice. While many employees may not be subjected to exposed electrical equipment, the lessons regarding potential mishaps relating to electrical shock are applicable to all of us.

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